

THE EDITOR'S CORNER

Jack Brandt's article on Great Britain officials, appearing elsewhere in this issue, brings to mind the possibility that some of our newer members may not yet have realized the avenues open for specializing in a particular Perfin. No matter what Perfin of what country you select (except of course for rarities) it can be quite an interesting and informative chase to see how many different stamp issues you can find bearing that particular Perfin. The chase can be widened to see how many different positions you can find on each issue, etc., etc.

This points up the fact that stamp collecting, and particularly Perfin collecting, doesn't have to be expensive to be highly interesting and rewarding. For example, one of the editor's favorite pursuits, as both a precancel and a Perfin collector, is to try to get as many different precancelled stamp issues as possible bearing any particular Perfin (United States, that is).

So, if you find yourself in a quandary as to where to go with your collecting, let your imagination come to your rescue. And remember that there are no set rules for stamp collecting (although some folks seem determined to set them). Each collector is, or should be, the master of his own philatelic fate, and, for fullest enjoyment, should collect whatever and however his own personal fancy dictates.

In this editor's humble opinion, a philatelic publication serves its most useful purpose when its articles evoke responses, such as those of Leif Bergman and George Fisher in this issue, answering questions raised in the articles and giving additional information. It is through such interchanges as these that philatelic knowledge is truly shared and recorded for the future.

The editor urges each and every member to write to him any time you have questions or comments, in response to articles or on your own initiative, that you feel might be of interest for publication in the Bulletin.

In making up the headings for articles in the Bulletin, your editor uses the art-type sheets from which the letters are burnished onto the paper one at a time. Although he uses a fixant spray on the finished headings, a letter or two will sometimes come off in handling or affixing to a page of copy, thus requiring replacement letters.

The editor therefore lives in dread that some letters will be lost when plates are being made. This happened in the May issue, when the heading "Philippine Perfins" on the article by Ray Coughlin (page 5) lost the final "s" and appeared in print as "Philippine Perfin." It is hoped that readers will bear with us when such misprints occur. Every effort is made to keep them to a minimum.

In a recently acquired lot of foreign Perfins, the editor found a copy of the 1922 Hungary 100 k. issue (Scott #373) which bears both the official three-hole triangular punching and the "G.R.T." Perfin of a private concern. The purpose of the three-hole punching (in the two vertical middle columns of each sheet of 100 stamps sold at local post offices) was to discourage stamp collectors from buying sheets at local offices, so that they would pay a 10% surcharge (20% on postage dues) to buy mint sheets without punching from the central philatelic office. The plan was a failure in its intended purpose, because most collectors did not buy full sheets in any event. However, it would seem to follow that private concerns, purchasing sheets of 100 stamps at local post offices for commercial use, would apply their Perfin to all 100 stamps in each sheet without regard to the two columns of three-hole punching. Thus, one can theorize that private Perfins on stamps bearing the three-hole punching should not really be uncommon.

However, the example cited is the first that the editor has come across in examining many copies of the three-hole punched stamps. Can any member shed light on the frequency and variety of such combinations?

The editor's thanks go to Major William Collyer (#1375), who sent in information on the Japanese cash registration envelope seals which corroborates that cited from George Fisher's letter elsewhere in this issue. Our members who are in the armed forces overseas sometimes have much better opportunities to garner information on foreign Perfins than those of us at home.

The editor erred in his column in the June issue, when he touted the Interphil catalog as a good buy at \$3.00. It would have been an exceptional buy at that price, because the going price is \$5.00 - which is still a good buy considering the material contained in the catalog.

In response to Vojtech Maxa's article on numeral Perfins in the May Bulletin, David Stump offers the following information concerning the "85%" Perfin: "'85%' indicates 85% of magnesia, 'Mg' or 'MgO' which is what it usually is - magnesium oxide. 'Magnesia' actually is a stone called 'magnesia lithos,' but is usually ground to a powder. Its small use in that form is an insulating material in fire brick. It is most commonly known when water has been added, and then it is called magnesium hydrate. This is a well-known laxative. More properly known as 'hydrated magnesium carbonate' and when the Ehret Company produced it, they claimed their product was 85% magnesium."